

Message Text

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43

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ARA-06 EUR-12 EA-06 ISO-00 GSA-01 INT-05

ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00

FEAE-00 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01

PM-03 USIA-06 SAM-01 OES-03 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04

TRSE-00 FRB-03 PA-01 PRS-01 /113 W

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P R 131552Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1082

INFO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EMIN, ETRD, UK

SUBJ: TIN: SUSPENSION OF BUFFER STOCK MANAGER AND
ASSISTANT

REF: LONDON 7169

1. THERE HAS STILL BEEN NO AUTHORITATIVE EXPLANATION
OF WHY THE INTERNATIONAL TIN COUNCIL (ITC) BUFFER STOCK
MANAGER, R.T. ADNAN, AND HIS DEPUTY, JAIME BUENO, WERE
SUSPENDED. AT HIS PRESS CONFERENCE MAY 12, ITC
EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN ALLEN SHED LITTLE LIGHT ON THE AFFAIR
OTHER THAN TO SAY THAT THE DECISION TO SUSPEND THE TWO
OFFICIALS HAD NOT BEEN TAKEN LIGHTLY AND THAT SINCE
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THEY HAD THE RIGHT TO APPEAL THE SUSPENSION TO THE

COUNCIL HE FELT HE COULD SAY NOTHING AT THIS STAGE. ACCORDING TO THE FINANCIAL TIMES, HE CLAIMED, NEVERTHELESS, THAT THE BUFFER STOCK WAS "FULLY VIABLE AND IN A STRONG POSITION WITH THE LAST INFLOW OF FUNDS CALLED UP FROM PRODUCING COUNTRIES HAVING BEEN RECEIVED LAST WEEK." HE ALSO REPORTEDLY NOTED THAT THERE WAS NO ABNORMAL FINANCIAL SITUATION TO UNRAVEL NOR WOULD THERE BE ANY POLICE INQUIRIES. AS THE TIMES NOTED, THE AFFAIR SO FAR HAS HAD NO DISCERNIBLE EFFECT ON TIN PRICES ON THE LONDON METAL EXCHANGE. THE SPECIAL MEETING OF "HEADS OF DELEGATIONS" OF ITC MEMBERS REFERRED TO IN REFTEL CONTINUED INTO THE EARLY EVENING OF MAY 12 AND IS DUE TO BE RESUMED TODAY, MAY 13.

2. WE HAVE BEEN TOLD BY A CANADIAN SOURCE AND BY A MEMBER OF ANOTHER SECRETARIAT IN THE SAME BUILDING AS THE ITC THAT ADNAN AND BUENO HAD BEEN QUIETLY UNDER INVESTIGATION FOR SOME TIME FOR "OUTSIDE ACTIVITIES" IN CONFLICT WITH THEIR ITC POSITIONS. BOTH THESE SOURCES CLAIMED THAT THEY HAD HEARD OF NO MALFEASANCE AFFECTING THE BUFFER STOCK ITSELF BUT, IN THE WORDS OF THE CANADIAN, THE ALLEGATION WAS THAT ADNAN AND BUENO HAD RECEIVED PERSONAL KICKBACKS AND IN OTHER WAYS HAD USED THEIR POSITIONS TO ENHANCE THEIR PERSONAL WEALTH. LATE MAY 12, ITC EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN ALLEN TOLD THE US OBSERVER THAT HE HAD SUSPENDED ADNAN AND BUENO ON HIS OWN INITIATIVE AND THAT THE SUSPENSION WOULD BE REVIEWED AND EITHER CONFIRMED OR REVOKED AT A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL IN GENEVA ON MAY 23. ALLEN REFUSED TO COMMENT ON THE REASONS FOR THE SUSPENSION, ALTHOUGH HE DID REPLY WHEN ASKED IF IT INVOLVED AS RUMORED "A CONFLICT OF INTEREST" THAT HE WOULD HAVE HARDLY TAKEN SUCH A SERIOUS ACTION FOR NOTHING. ALLEN, WHO HAS ALWAYS BEEN COMPLETELY FRANK AND OPEN WITH THE US OBSERVER, APPEARED TO BE ACUTELY AWARE THAT TIMING FOR THE ACTION WAS PARTICULARLY BAD ON THE EVE OF THE START OF NEGOTIATIONS FOR A NEW TIN AGREEMENT IN GENEVA ON MAY 20. APPARENTLY, HOWEVER, HE FELT HE HAD NO OTHER ALTERNATIVE. RICHARDSON

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